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JUL - 3 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 2, 1997

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Ex Parte Statement**
CC Docket 97-137

Dear Mr. Caton:

The attached letters addressed to Chairman Reed Hundt should be incorporated in the record of the above referenced docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Toni R. Acton".

Toni R. Acton

Attachments

cc: M. Waksman

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABOVE

082

06/03/97 08:21 FAX

06/11/97 08:27

ID:2ESNIK 716-461-9258

FAX:716-555-2222

PAGE 5

06/10/97 17:46

0000007



June 10, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Ex-Parte Communication
RE: CC Docket 97-1

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) now has before it the first application from Ameritech to offer in-region, long distance service. The United Seniors Health Cooperative (USHC) urges you to approve Ameritech's application to offer long distance service in Michigan.

USHC and other senior organizations backed telecommunications reform as a step toward improving availability and lowering the cost of telephone service for older Americans. Older Americans are often dependent on long distance service to maintain contact with their family and close friends living in distant locations. Unfortunately, the recent increases in long distance service tends to hit older Americans the hardest since older consumers are less likely to belong to a discount plan and rely more on basic rates for their telephone service. These recent rate increases were not what Congress and our Association, had in mind with the passage of the Telecommunications Act. One important step the Commission can take to deliver on the promise of lower long distance rates for seniors is to approve Ameritech's long distance application.

USHC, therefore, urges the Commission to approve Ameritech's application to enter the long distance market in Michigan. Ameritech has met the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as regards opening the local market to competition. Seniors in Michigan should not have to wait any longer to realize the benefits of meaningful competition in the long distance market.

Sincerely,

Anne Werner
Acting President

07/03/97 08:21 FAX

06/11/97 08:27

ID:2ESNIK 716-461-9258

FAX:716-555-2222

003/015

PAGE 6

007/007

08/10/97 17:46

cc: Commissioner James Quello
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachelle Chong
Secretary William Caton (2 copies)

June 10, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Ex Parte Communication
CC: Ameritech Application in Michigan

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Federal Communications Commission is now considering the application from Ameritech to offer in-region, long-distance service. The undersigned organizations encourage you to approve Ameritech's application to offer long-distance service in the state of Michigan.

We support Ameritech's request because:

- we believe Ameritech, in competition with other long-distance companies, will lower our costs;
- we have had good experiences with Ameritech. Ameritech waives "operator-assisted" fees for people with disabilities who need help dialing. In addition, Ameritech administers the Michigan TTY relay service. Ameritech also offers TTY discounts on local phone service.

As you well know, Mr. Hundt, having been a strong supporter of consumers with disabilities, many Americans with disabilities live on limited incomes. We and the consumers we serve will benefit when long-distance fees fall in the face of increased competition -- especially when a company promises, as Ameritech does, to provide TTY discounts on long-distance service.

Sincerely,

Deaf Community Action Network
("DEAF CAN")
2111 Orchard Lake Rd #101
Sylvan Lake, MI 48120

Lakeshore Center for
Independent Living
426 Century Lane
Holland, MI 49423

Monroe County Opportunity Program
302 W. Elm Ave.
Monroe, MI 48162

03/97 08:22 FAX

06/11/97 08:27

ID:2ESNIK 716-461-9258

FAX:716-555-2222

PAGE 4

08/10/97 17:45

004/007

cc: Commissioner James Quallo
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachelle Chong
Secretary William Caton (2 copies)
Donald J. Russell, Telecommunications Task Force
Anti-Trust Division, Department of Justice

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE AGING

409 Third Street SW Washington, DC 20024 TEL 202 479-1200 TDD 202 479-6674 FAX 202 479-0735 <http://www.ncoa.org>

June 10, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20544

Re: Ameritech Communications, Inc. Filing to Provide Long Distance Service

Dear Mr. Chairman:


I am submitting these comments on behalf of the National Council on the Aging, Inc. (NCOA). NCOA is a center of leadership and nationwide expertise in the issues of aging. NCOA is an association of more than 7,500 members -- organizations and individuals -- who work with or on behalf of older persons.

To date, the Telecommunications Act has not had a noticeable impact on long distance pricing. NCOA supports increased competition in both the local and long distance markets to help reduce the cost of residential phone bills and, ultimately, improve the quality of service and stimulate greater innovation.

Many older persons on fixed incomes would benefit from increased competition, as higher prices may force them to choose between having a phone or paying for food, heat, or housing. Telecommunications provides critical access to the outside world to many senior citizens who live alone or in rural areas. Widespread, affordable, reliable telecommunications services not only enhance older persons' independence, but makes it easier for caregivers to assist them.

Senior citizens should have the ability to choose among a variety of marketplace options, or, if they prefer, acquire all the services they need from a single familiar entity. Limiting marketplace options and restricting competition will impede and delay the realization of the emerging "Information Age" for an important and growing segment of our population. The entrance of new, customer focused competitors should offer improved options that represent increased value over existing services.

Sincerely,


James Firman
President and CEO



**Triangle
Coalition
for
Science
and
Technology
Education**

June 10, 1997

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Walter L. Purdy**

**Mr. Reed Hunt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554**

Dear Chairman Hunt:

On May 21 Ameritech petitioned the FCC for permission to provide long distance service to its local customers in Michigan. The Triangle Coalition strongly believe that with the adoption of new FCC rules to extend Universal Access services to schools, libraries, and rural Health Facilities that it is in the interest of these institutions that a strong competitive environment exist among potential service providers.

Ameritech's entry into the market will enhance competition and may contribute to lower rates for services which would give greater value to the discounts to be offered to schools. Schools are consumers and as the new rules provide likely to become even larger customers of advanced telecommunications services.

Increased competition will mean new choices, hopefully more competitive rates and added incentives to the existing service providers to make the infrastructure investments necessary to bring a full range of advanced telecommunications applications to schools. These services are essential if students are to develop the knowledge and skills these same companies assert are required in today's marketplace.

Ameritech's entry into the competitive long distance market will enhance the opportunity to achieve the promised benefits of the Telecommunications Act and provide the range of choices needed by schools in the years ahead. We ask that you and the Commission give favorable consideration to their petition.

Sincerely,

Gary G. Allen
**Gary G. Allen
Director of Governmental Affairs**



June 5, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing in support of the action taken by Ameritech in filing under Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to provide long distance service in Michigan. Ameritech's filing clearly demonstrates that the competition we hoped would develop when the Act was signed into law by the President, is rapidly becoming a reality.

The emergence of real competition in local long distance services will ultimately result in new jobs for American workers, provide significant long term benefits such as lower prices and better service, and foster an environment of innovation.

Seniors, in particular have much to gain from the benefits of a competitive environment. For most older Americans, affordable telephone service is the primary way to stay in touch with family and friends, obtain needed medical consultation, and maintain contact with the community, security and other support organizations. Seniors should have the option to choose from a variety of available marketplace options, or, if they prefer, acquire all the services they need from a single familiar entity. Limiting marketplace options and restricting competition, will only limit and delay the realization of the benefits of the emerging "Information Age" to an important and growing segment of our population..

Approval of Ameritech's filing will begin to deliver the benefits of the Information Age to America, as Congress intended. Mr. Chairman, I urge your thoughtful consideration and prompt approval of Ameritech's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Guerrero", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael S. Guerrero
Policy Director
National Hispanic Council on Aging

NATIONAL HISPANIC COUNCIL ON AGING

2713 Ontario Rd. N.W. ● Washington D.C. 20009

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07/03/97 08:23 FAX

009/015

06/09/97 11:06

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FAX:716-555-2222

PAGE 8

06/08/97 11:23

009/010

June 9, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The United Homeowners Association (UHA) support Ameritech's application of offer long distance service in Michigan. Attached please find a copy of UHA's letter submitted earlier on this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jordan Clark
President

cc: Commissioner James Quello
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachelle Chong
Secretary William Caton (2 copies)
Donald J. Russell, Telecommunications Task Force
Anti-Trust Division, Department of Justice



UNITED HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION®

Ex-parte

February 7, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket 97-1

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Almost one year ago, Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996. To date, consumers have seen few, if any, benefits. Retrospectives which are now beginning to appear in the media generally conclude that the one-year legacy of the new law has been higher long distance and cable rates; not exactly what Congress and the President had in mind.¹

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) now has before it the first application from a regional Bell company to offer in-region, long distance service. The United Homeowners Association (UHA) urges you to approve Ameritech's application to offer long distance service in Michigan.

Ameritech has submitted a voluminous application demonstrating that it has opened the local telephone market in Michigan to competition and, therefore, should be allowed to enter the long distance business. Ameritech's application is based on ten interconnection agreements that it has concluded with competitors in Michigan, including such companies as MFS, Brooks Fiber, and TCG. In addition, the Michigan Public Service Commission has approved arbitrated agreements that allow AT&T, MCI and Sprint to interconnect with and resell Ameritech's local service. These agreements hold the promise, albeit a distant one, of lower prices and better service for homeowners in Michigan. AT&T, for example, has indicated that it hopes to offer local service in Michigan this spring, but only on a limited basis.²

¹ See, for example, Mike Mills and Paul Farhi, "This Is a Free Market? The Telecommunications Act So Far: Higher Prices, Few Benefits," *The Washington Post*, January 19, 1997, H1, H5.

² Leslie Cauley, "Big Carriers Are Slow to Enter Local Markets," *The Wall Street Journal*, January 28, 1997, B1, B9.

1511 K Street, NW Suite 326 Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202.408.8842 Fax: 202.408.8156

<http://uha.org> /America Online kw:UHA

Homeowners in Michigan can realize the promise of lower long distance rates as soon as the Commission approves Ameritech's long distance application. As you know, AT&T, MCI and Sprint continue to raise their rates. Most recently, AT&T raised its rates 5.9 percent the day before Thanksgiving. MCI and Sprint also raised their rates, 4.9 percent and 2 percent respectively, at around the same time. It marked the ninth time in the last seven years that the Big Three raised rates in lock step. UHA thanks the Commission for requesting public comment on the joint petition of UHA and the United Seniors Health Cooperative to reinstate AT&T's dominant carrier status.³ We believe that given its market share and market power, AT&T should be reclassified as "dominant." AT&T's status should be revisited after the regional Bell companies and other local exchange carriers enter the long distance market.

These rate hikes stand in marked contrast to what is happening in those few areas of the country where the local exchange carrier has entered the long distance market. In areas of Connecticut served by SNET and areas of California served by GTE, rates for long distance service have dropped 15 to 20 percent.

This is what Congress had in mind. Similar rate reductions in Michigan translates into savings of hundreds of millions of dollars for homeowners and small businesses.

UHA, therefore, urges the Commission to approve Ameritech's application to enter the long distance market in Michigan. Ameritech has met the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as regards opening the local market to competition. Homeowners in Michigan should not have to wait any longer to realize the benefits of meaningful competition in the long distance market.

Sincerely,



Jordan Clark
President

cc: Commissioner James Quello
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachelle Chong
Secretary William Caton (2 copies)

³ See, "Petition for Rulemaking to reclassify AT&T as having dominant carrier status," December 31, 1996, and FCC Public Notice DA 97-123, January 16, 1997.

06/16/97

15:07

GR CHAMBER + 313 496 9332

NO. 919

002

*Grand Rapids
The Right Place*

The Right Place Program
The Waters Building, 111 Pearl Street NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2831
(616) 771-0325 • FAX (616) 771-0329

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June 16, 1997

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MichCon

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street NW
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Mr. Hundt,

On behalf of The Right Place Program I would like to lend support to Ameritech's application to provide long distance service in Michigan.

Ameritech's community involvement throughout the state has been generous and most beneficial to all Michigan residents. We know that they endorse full and fair competition, based on the best products, at the best prices with best customer service available for all residents. As President of The Right Place Program, the economic development organization for West Michigan and a non-profit program, I feel that true, market-based competition in all telecommunications markets will ensure that the United States continues to have a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure – which is an asset that is essential to building our economy, retaining and attracting businesses and meeting the needs of our residents. Through this increased competition and growing communications workforce, we will experience job growth and increased demand for housing, daily living expenses and discretionary income.

We hope there will not be delay in opening the long distance markets to competition. With that in mind, The Right Place Program strongly supports and encourages approval of Ameritech's application.

Sincerely,

Birgit M. Klohs
Birgit M. Klohs
President

BMK/mam

cc: Mr. Donald J. Russell
Telecommunication Task Force, Anti-Trust Division
U.S. Department of Justice

DETROIT RENAISSANCE

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President

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June 25, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20544

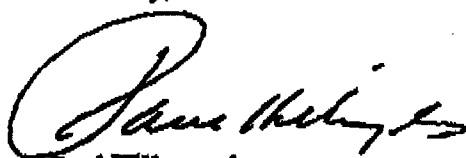
Dear Chairman Hundt:

It is my understanding that Ameritech Michigan recently resubmitted to the Federal Communications Commission its application to provide long distance service in Michigan, under the procedure established by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. I am writing to urge your prompt and positive consideration of Ameritech's application (Docket #DA 97-137).

As president of Detroit Renaissance, an organization of CEO's of the largest Detroit-area corporations whose mission is economic revitalization of Detroit, I believe that market-based competition in all telecommunications markets will boost our economic development efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of the Ameritech application and this letter.

Sincerely,



Paul Hillegonds
President

cc: Donald J. Russell

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

36800 SCHOOLCRAFT ROAD
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48150-1173
(313) 432-6315
FAX (313) 432-6332

June 16, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Honorable Reed Hundt:

Full and fair competition in all telecommunications markets is essential to building our economy and is essential to the nonprofit sector, particularly to the educational system. Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan, is a non-profit institution which strongly supports market-based competition where customers have the opportunity to select from the best products, at the best prices, with the best service, from the best providers.

The intent of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was to promote full and fair competition in all telecommunications markets, which will be the key to the delivery of the information superhighway to consumers, businesses, schools and nonprofits. Madonna University requests, therefore, that you move favorably on Ameritech's application (Docket #DA 97-137).

It is our belief that delaying the opening of long distance markets to competition will serve only as a detriment to our economy. For the benefit of U.S. commerce, and thereby, the benefit of U.S. nonprofits, we heartily support Ameritech in its efforts and ask that you approve its application without delay.

Sincerely,

Sister M. Francilene
Sister M. Francilene, CSSF
President,

cc: Donald J. Russell, Telecommunications Task Force



TRAFFIC SAFETY ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

602 Michigan National Tower
Lansing, Michigan 48933
Thomas O. Reel, President
(517) 487-8811 FAX (517) 487-6358
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Honorable Chief Judge
Robert J. Turner
43rd District Court

June 11, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Honorable Hundt:

I urge you to grant Ameritech authority to provide long distance service. It is clear to me that local competition is expanding rapidly in Michigan markets served by Ameritech.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 has been in effect for over 16 months. During that period, long distance rates have remained level or gone up in some cases. In the meantime, the Michigan Public Service Commission has granted authority to numerous telecommunications providers including AT&T, Brooks Fiber, MCI Metro, Sprint, etc. to compete in local markets.

Please do not delay in opening long distance markets to competition, for the benefit of U.S. Commerce as well as nonprofits such as the Traffic Safety Association of Michigan.

Sincerely,

President

dks

cc: Donald J. Russell
U.S. Department of Justice

bcc: ~~Visa~~ Hamway - Ameritech
Fred Birch - Ameritech



Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District

JON WHAN, Superintendent
4228 TWO MILE ROAD, BAY CITY, MICHIGAN 48706-2397
PHONE (517) 686-4410
FAX (517) 667-3286

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June 9, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing regarding the Telecommunications Act of 1996, specifically opening long distance markets to competition for the benefit of schools, other non-profits and U.S. commerce.

It is my belief that true market based competition in all telecommunications markets will ensure that the United States continues to have a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure- an asset that is essential to building our economy, and building our economy is essential to the nonprofit sector.

The telecommunications Act of 1996 has been in effect for over a year, with no noticeable impact on long distance prices, which have steadily gone up.

The intent of the Act was to promote full and fair competition in all telecommunications markets, which will be the key to the delivery of the information superhighway to consumers, businesses, schools and nonprofits.

As a regional nonprofit organization, we view the health of American consumers, businesses and schools as the key to our operating programs and revenue.

Today, the most qualified competitors to the long distance companies can't even compete for our business.

In conclusion, I endorse full and fair competition, based on the best products, at the best prices with the best customer service available and ask that the implementation of the Act be expedited.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Whan
Superintendent

JMW/ct

pc: Pat Vance ✓



Michigan SDDC Regional Center
Grand Valley State University
Seidman School of Business
301 West Fulton Street, Suite 718S
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504-6495
616.771.6693 Phone
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lopucki@gvsu.edu



Consulting, Training, Research, and Advocacy for Michigan's Small Business

June 3, 1997

Grand Rapids Press
Letter to the Editor
Public Pulse

The Michigan Small Business Development Center, located within the Seidman School of Business at Grand Valley State University, is committed to the growth and development of small businesses in Kent Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. Provision of small business training, counsel, research, and advocacy for small businesses is our mission.

Communications technology plays a significant role in the operation of a successful small business. For survival in today's competitive marketplace, it is essential that a small business have access to low priced and highly competitive communication services. It is critical to effectively communicate with customers and efficiently use internal resources. Equal competition among information technology providers will allow business owners to access the best services available for operation of their companies.

We support Ameritech's entry into the long distance market, allowing the business owner and consumer greater choice for their communications services provider.

Sincerely,

Carol Lopucki

Carol Lopucki
Director, MI-Small Business Development Center

cc: Ron Hall, State Director
Michigan Small Business Development Center Network

SDDC SATELLITES

Association Of Commerce
And Industry
Grand Haven

Michigan Economic
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Marquette

Ontonagon County Economic
Development Office, Inc.
Alfordville

The Right Place Program
Grand Rapids

Michigan SDDC Serv Office
Wayne State University
2727 Second Avenue, Suite 107
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

June 10, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Mr. Hundt:

As Governor of Michigan, I feel compelled to express my support of Ameritech's filing, under Section 271 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, to provide in-region long distance service in Michigan. If approved, this historic filing will provide greater competition in long distance and the added choice for consumers that Congress had in mind when the President signed the bill into law well over a year ago.

Michigan now has over 24 companies such as AT&T, MCI-Metro, MFS, Brooks Fiber, et. al. that have received licenses to provide local phone service in Michigan. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has also recently issued an order approving the interconnection agreement between Ameritech and AT&T. A number of these companies are conducting advertising campaigns in an effort to obtain market share of the local exchange business.

Moreover, the Michigan Public Service Commission has conducted an extensive analysis of the filing, and found that Ameritech has met most of the items in the competitive checklist. Where there appears to be a deficiency, the MPSC has indicated that it is reasonable to anticipate that the necessary corrections can be made prior to the date on which the FCC must act on the application. The MPSC has advised me that federal involvement will greatly enhance the prospects for successful resolution.

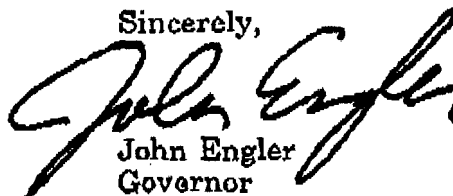
I urge you to use the full extent of your authority to assure that the problems identified by the MPSC are not left unsolved due to inaction. As you and I have discussed in the past, Michigan is poised to move further into the competitive telecommunications market. This commitment was demonstrated in 1995, when Michigan created a competitive landscape by enacting the Michigan Telecommunications Act of 1995. Since then, we have acted expeditiously to bring competition to every level within our state. You and your fellow Commissioners have done likewise in the unwavering course you have set.



The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
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June 10, 1997

You now have the opportunity before you to strike down the last major impediment to full and complete competition in the telecommunications sector. It is my hope that Ameritech's application will be judged on the basis of a full and complete record at the end of the 90-day review period, and that we will be able to take the next step in bringing competitive benefits to all of our citizens.

Sincerely,



John Engler
Governor

JE/lc/pw

cc: Mr. Donald J. Russell, Department of Justice
Michigan Public Service Commission



THE SENATE



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June 3, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20544

Dear Mr. Hundt:

As the Chairman of the Michigan Senate Committee on Technology and Energy, and the sponsor of the Michigan Telecommunications Acts of 1990 and 1994, I am once again writing to you to commend and urge your support of Ameritech's application to provide in-region interLATA services in Michigan, as set out under Section 271(d) of the Federal Telecommunications Act.

Michigan is proud to have led the nation in 1990 with Telecommunications reform that has yielded increased competition in local communications and cable television markets, innovations in products and services, and more responsive customer service. We've seen a complex regulatory structure beginning to give way to market-based competition here in Michigan, and we're proud that Michigan is once again taking the lead in further deregulation. I firmly believe that there can be no true competition until everyone is allowed to compete - in local service, intraLATA long-distance service, and interLATA long-distance service.

Michigan consumers and businesses should have a full range of choices in selecting both their local and long-distance communications providers. They should be able to select the best products, with the best service, at the best price, from the best company offering services in their area. I urge you to move without further delay to favorably consider Ameritech's application to bring full and fair competition to Michigan.

Sincerely,

Mat Dunaskiss
State Senator, 16th District

cc: Mr. Donald J. Russell, DOJ
Mr. John Strand, Chairman MPSC



Alt

Lisa M. Hamway
Director of Corporate Contributions-Michigan
444 Michigan Avenue, Room 1550
Detroit, MI 48226
Office 313/223-5747
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FAX (517) 782-4045

June 6, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chrm.
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Chrm. Hundt:

This letter is in reference to Docket #DA 97-137.

In our efforts to receive the best phone service for the best price, we as a non-profit organization must constantly shop for value.

It is our opinion that some very qualified "players" in the telecommunications business are not allowed to compete. We endorse full and fair competition, based on the best products, at the best prices with the best customer service available.

Please do not delay in opening markets to competition. We should all be beneficiaries of an open market.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James Cornforth', is written over a horizontal line.

James Cornforth
Associate Executive Director

cc: Mr. Donald J. Russell
Telecommunications Task Force, Anti-Trust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
82055 555 4th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

**SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE****Curtis Hertel**

2nd District

Michigan House of Representatives

State Capitol Building

Lansing, Michigan 48913

Phone: (517) 373-1983

June 4, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Honorable Hundt:

This letter is being written in support of Ameritech's filing under Section 271 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 to provide in-region long distance service in Michigan. By allowing Ameritech to enter the long distance market, an increase in competition for both local and long distance services within the state would result, providing better and expanded customer services and greater choice to the residents of Michigan.

It is this competition that will ensure the quality, state-of-the-art communications infrastructure that is needed for a string, growing economy. The only way to continue meeting the increased needs of consumers would be to grant approval of Ameritech's petition under Section 271.

Ameritech has proven to be an asset to the state of Michigan in a number of ways. They have over 30,000 current and retired employees within the state. The number will surely continue to grow once the application has been approved, providing much needed jobs to the residents of my state. Ameritech has currently and consistently met all of the legal and technical requirements and regulations thus far put forward by both the Federal and Michigan Telecommunications Act.

These few reasons alone warrant enough cause to justify why Ameritech's petition should be approved, so it is here once again. That I ask for serious consideration to be given to Ameritech's request to begin providing in-region long distance service to the state of Michigan.

Thank you for your sincere attention to this issue. I will be available to discuss in detail any aspect of this letter should you desire. I look forward to hearing your decision.

Sincerely,

Speaker Curtis Hertel
Michigan House of Representatives

cc:

Mr. Donald J. Russell

*Pleasant Ridge Foundation**23925 Woodward Avenue**Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069*

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20544

June 12, 1997

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am corresponding with you regarding Docket # DA97-137 as President of the Pleasant Ridge Foundation in Michigan. We are writing to ask that you consider favorable action on Ameritech's application so that we can enjoy full and fair competition in all parts of the telecommunications markets here in Michigan.

Although the Telecommunications Act of 1996 has been in effect for over a year, long distance prices seem to continue to rise - competition does not really exist yet. As a non-profit organization, costs are always of concern to us, and we would like to see all the qualified competition in long distance service be able to bid for our business and that of our members. We hope that you will not delay too long in opening the long distance markets to wider competition so that all organizations such as ours or regular businesses can continue to enjoy a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention to my request - I look forward to your speedy decision in this matter.

cc: Donald J Russell
The US Department of Justice

Sincerely,

Barry Murphy

Barry M. Murphy
President

Facsimile	Date	# of pages
Fax Note	6/11/97	1
To	Lisa Hensley	
From	(313) 436-9332	
Phone	Barry Murphy	
(248) 371-1700 x 8572		



June 11, 1997

The Honorable Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications commission
1919 M. Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20544

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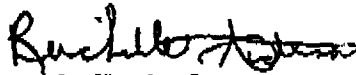
RE: Docket #DA97-137

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We believe telephone customers should be able to select the best product, from the best provider, at the best price from the company with the best service. We further believe Ameritech is that company to offer long distance service in Michigan.

1. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 has been in effect for over a year, with no noticeable impact on long distance prices, which have steadily gone up.
2. The intent of the Act was to promote full and fair competition in all telecommunications markets, which will be the key to the delivery of the information superhighway to consumers, businesses, schools and nonprofits.
3. Ameritech is a global/multi-state/regional nonprofit organization. They believe the health of American consumers, businesses and schools as the key to operating programs and revenue.
4. Along with Ameritech, Deaf Options' endorses full and fair competition, based on the best products, at the best prices with the best customer service available.
5. Please do not delay in opening long distance markets to competition, for the benefit of U.S. commerce, and thereby, the benefit of U.S. nonprofits, as well.

Sincerely,


Reichelle Anderson
President & CEO

cc: Mr. Donald J. Russell